

Copeland Borough Council

PRESS RELEASE



Council Urges Joined Up Approach to Radioactive Waste Disposal Site Process

Copeland Borough Council is urging all partners to work with them in discussions with the Government over the long term solution to the management of nuclear waste.

Copeland's plea, comes as Cumbria County Council's cabinet said that it was minded to 'express an interest' in the Government process to find a location for a deep geological repository for nuclear waste, for the Copeland area. A decision will be taken at a County Council cabinet meeting in December, following discussions at its full council meeting in November.

Copeland Borough Council has already had an 'expression of interest' accepted by the Government, and the Council is keen to involve all local partners in progressing discussions with the Government.

Councillor Elaine Woodburn, leader of Copeland Council said, "We have offered the County Council the opportunity to work in partnership with us, as we believe this is a sensible and logical way to move forward.

As 70% of the country's nuclear waste is housed in Copeland, we need to be at the heart of any partnership and wherever the waste is eventually located will have implications for the borough and its residents."

Expressing an interest is the first step in a comprehensive process, outlined in the Managing Nuclear Waste Safely white paper, to find a geological repository. By expressing an interest Copeland can access Government funding to help undertake a community engagement

process. Such a process is necessary to gauge public opinion and to take a decision as to whether to participate in the siting process.

Ends

Notes for Editors

- For media enquires, please contact Ian Curwen on 01946 598504 or Leila Cox on 01946 598315.
- Copeland Borough Council – leading the transformation of West Cumbria to a prosperous future.
- Copeland – the best place to live in Cumbria (Readers Digest survey, 2006), with the best view in England at Wasdale. (ITV, 2007).